

THE ORIGINAL OLD MAIN OF 1854, CALLED "THE ACADEMY BUILDING", MILLERSVILLE PA

Marauding MU Historian

The History Department Newsletter

Victoria Khiterer
Editor

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IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from the Chair

by John McLarnon



Welcome to this, the 4th edition of the Marauding Historian – the newsletter of Millersville University's Department of History. Elsewhere in this newsletter you can read of last year's outstanding students' accomplishments so I will not dwell on them here. Suffice it to say that just as in previous years, our students set very high standards for academic excellence. Several of my colleagues did the same.

Arguably the most memorable event of the past academic year was the faculty work

action last October. We had all been working without a contract for two years. Contract talks seemed to be going nowhere and finally APSCUF (Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculty) state leadership called a strike on October 19th. This was the first such strike in the 80-year history of the faculty association. The students were nearly unanimous in their support for the faculty and the picketing sites assumed the atmosphere of an impromptu holiday. The strike lasted only three days and, due to a cooperative effort between the Millersville administration and faculty, plans were quickly formed to make up classes that were missed. Consequently, the Department (and the University) concluded the semester with virtually no lost instructional time.

Easily the most important process of the 2016-2017 academic year was the Five-Year Review – a comprehensive quinquennial evaluation of the Department mandated by the State System of Higher Education. The timing of this review was most fortuitous. Over the past 5 years, the university's "per-credit" tuition model, the state's decision to reduce investment in public education and a national cultural and educational drift away from the humanities has led to an alarming decline in BA and BSE majors.

(Continued on next page)

Faculty News

This year our Faculty have published **two Books** (with **two other Books** are under contract), along with **seven Articles** and **Book Chapters**, and **five Book Reviews**. We have done **ten Presentations** and held **two Special Events**.

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Student News

Our most accomplished students won **History Department Awards** and other **Honors and Awards**.

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Alumni News

Our alumni tell us about their experiences and give advice for current students.

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Letter from the Chair

by John McLarnon

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These trends are beyond our control. However, reviewers identified some initiatives the Department is overdue in pursuing. The first is a systematic updating of the curriculum that has remained largely the same since the 1980s. Another is an expansion of the recruitment and promotional activities begun last year. Our external reviewer concluded that the

university “would be hard-pressed to find a department more committed to its students, their academic success, intellectual growth, and development into mature citizens,” but the Department has not done enough to convince students that such growth and development – what really should be the primary objective of any institution that calls itself a university – is far more important than the vocational training offered in other majors.

Stated in present-day business parlance, we have not done an effective job of “selling” the Department and its product. Our program to correct that shortcoming will intensify during 2017-18. It will begin with a reception on Homecoming weekend and will include social, professional and academic

activities for alumni and current students, recognition of alumni and student achievement and a serious revision of the Department web site.

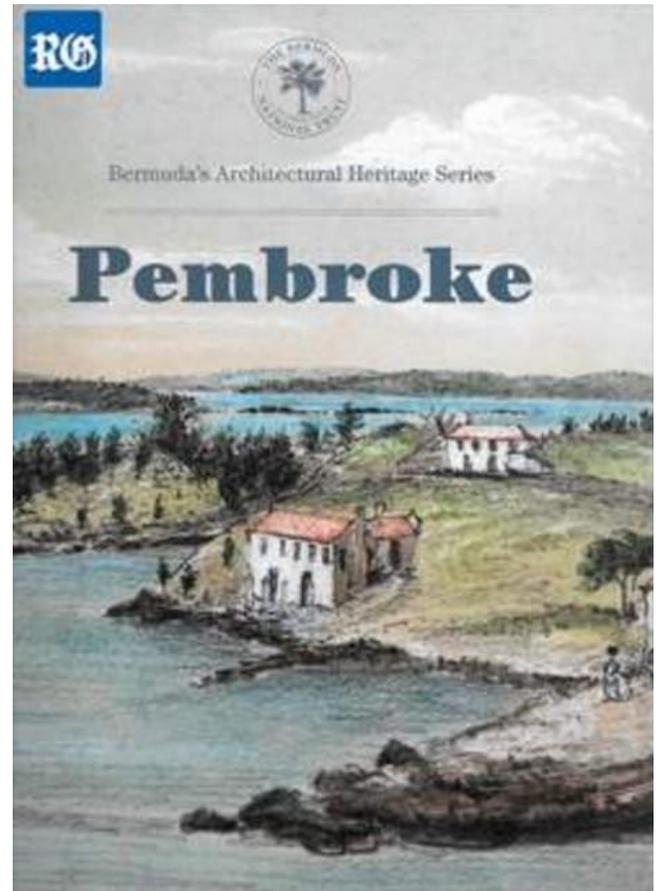
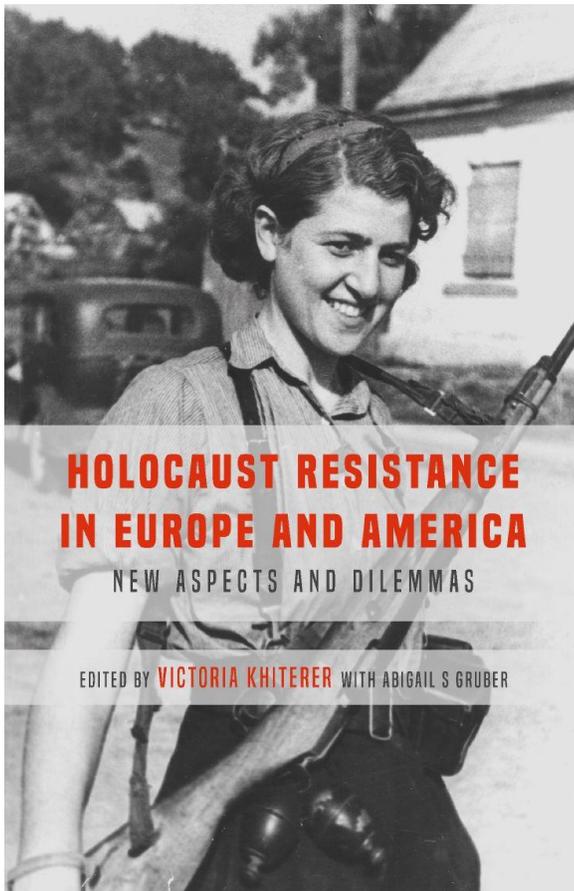
I would like to invite all alums to get in touch with the Department – with their former advisors and instructors – and let us know what you have done since leaving Millersville. Your stories of professional and personal success could be invaluable in our efforts to insure that the Department remains among the best at the university.

Faculty News

Books Published

Victoria Khiterer, Editor with Abigail S Gruber *Holocaust Resistance in Europe and America: New Aspects and Dilemmas* (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), 240 pp.

Clarence Maxwell, *Bermuda's Architectural Heritage: Pembroke* (Bermuda: Bermuda National Trust Architectural Heritage Series, 2016).



Faculty News

Books under Contract and in Press

Dennis B. Downey and James W. Conroy, eds., *Between History and Hope: Pennhurst and the Struggle for Disability Rights* (book under contract and in press, Penn State Press)

Tanya Kevorkian, *Weddings, Rumbles, and Tower Guards: Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany* (book under contract with University of Virginia Press).

Faculty News

Articles and Book Chapters

Dennis B. Downey, "The Irony of Democracy," op/ed *Lancaster Sunday News*, July 2, 2017

Dennis B. Downey, "Detect Early; Prevent Always': Philadelphia Physicians and the Gospel of Eugenics," *Pennsylvania Legacies* (Fall 2017)

Ronald Frankum, "Anti-War Movement (Vietnam)" in *The American Middle Class* [2 volumes]: *An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty*. Ed. Robert S. Rycroft (Greenwood Press, 2017).

Tanya Kevorkian, "The Musician's Household," in Robin Leaver, ed., *The Routledge Research Companion to Johann Sebastian Bach* (Routledge, 2017).

Victoria Khiterer, "Seekers of Happiness: Jews and Jazz in the Soviet Union," *Kultura Popularna* (accepted for publication, forthcoming in 2017).

Victoria Khiterer, "Memorialization of the Holocaust in Minsk and Kiev" in *Holocaust Resistance in Europe and America: New Aspects and Dilemmas* (Newcastle upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2017), 95-131.

Clarence Maxwell, "The Crown and 'the Country': an historical and political context to Bermuda's War of 1812" *Transactions of the Naval Dockyards Society*, vol. 10 (2016).

Nixon Tapes, the Vietnam War, and the Casualties of Reelection (Charlottesville, Va.: University of Virginia Press, 2015) and David F. Schmitz, *Richard Nixon and the Vietnam War: The End of the American Century* (Lanham, MD, Rowman & Littlefield, 2015 in the *Political Science Quarterly* (forthcoming))

Victoria Khiterer, Andreas Kilcher and Gabriella Safran, eds. *Writing Jewish Culture: Paradoxes in Ethnography*. (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2016) *The Russian Review*, 76, no. 1 (2017), 180-181.

Victoria Khiterer, Lev Berdnikov, *Evrei v tsarskoi Rossii: syny ili pasynki?* (Jews in Tsarist Russia: Sons or Stepsons? St. Petersburg: Aleteia, 2016), *Achievements*, September 3, 2016.

Mary E. Sommar, Kirsi Salonen, *Papal Justice in the Late Middle Ages* (London and New York, 2016) in *Church History* (September 2017).

Book Reviews

Ronald Frankum, J.P. Harris, *Vietnam's High Ground. Armed Struggle for the Central Highlands, 1954-1965*. (Modern War Studies. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2016) review in the *Journal of Military History* (forthcoming)

Ronald Frankum, "Reassessing Nixon and the American Failure in Vietnam." Featured Review of Ken Hughes, *Fatal Politics: The*

Faculty News

Conference Presentations and Public Lectures

Robyn Davis, "Tuned and Flipped: New Approaches to the U.S. History Survey," in *Assessing Historical Thinking in a Gen Ed Classroom: Notes from the Field*. American Historical Association, Atlanta, Georgia, 2016.

Tanya Kevorkian, "Town Musicians in German Baroque Society and Culture," Bach Colloquium, Cambridge, MA, May 2017.

Victoria Khiterer, "The Holodomor and Jews in Kyiv" to the 22nd Annual ASN World Convention, Columbia University.

Victoria Khiterer, "The 75th Anniversary of the Babi Yar Massacre and Problems of Commemoration of the Holocaust in Modern Ukraine" to the 47th Annual Scholars' Conference on the Holocaust and the Churches and to the 22nd Western Jewish Studies Association Conference.

Victoria Khiterer, Book talk "Jewish City or Inferno of Russian Israel? A History of the Jews in Kiev before February 1917" (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2016) at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute on March 6, 2017.

Victoria Khiterer, “Life in the Ruins: Jewish National and Cultural Revival in Kiev after the Holocaust (1944-48)” to the 48th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS).

Victoria Khiterer, “We are from Jazz: Leonid Utesov, Isaac Dunaevsky, Alexander Tsfasman and Eddie Rosner” to the 48th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES).

Victoria Khiterer, “Echo of Babi Yar: Commemoration and Memorialization of the Holocaust in Kiev” to the conference *The Holocaust in the 21st Century: Relevance and*

Challenges in the Digital Age, Clermont McKenna College, Los Angeles, CA.

Victoria Khiterer, “Jewish Life in Kiev Before and After Babi Yar” to the workshop *Microcosms of the Holocaust: 'Emotional Communities' in the Modern Metropolises of Nazi-Occupied Europe* at the Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Victoria Khiterer, “Aftermath of the Holocaust and the Rise of Anti-Semitism in Kiev in 1945-1970s” to the Quest for Learning Program, Lancaster, PA.

Faculty Fellowship

Robyn Davis Georgian Papers Programme, Royal Archives and OIEAHC Fellowship - George III Historical Papers Project, 2017-2018

Faculty News

Millersville University Holocaust Memorial Night and Roundtable “Our Immigration Experience”

On April 19, 2017 Millersville University held the **Holocaust Memorial Night**. Holocaust survivor **Linda Schwab** talked about her dramatic experiences during the Nazi occupation of the Soviet Union. She was five years old when the Nazis came to her town Vilne, Belarus and began to kill the Jews. She hid with her parents in the forest, where they lived in a pit house until the Soviet Army liberated her town. Then she emigrated with

her parents to the US. Ms. Schwab also shared her immigration experience. A video recording of the Holocaust Memorial Night is available at <http://www.millersville.edu/holocon/>

In the second half of the program, Millersville University immigrant professors shared with the audience their immigration experience. The roundtable participants were

Dr. Christine Filippone, Department of Art and Design (Moderator), **Dr. Victoria Khiterer**, History Department (organizer of the Holocaust Memorial Night), **Dr. Onek Adyanga**, History Department, **Dr. Ojoma Edeh Herr**, Department of Educational Foundations, and **Dr. Ximena Catepillan**, Mathematics Department.



Holocaust survivor **Linda Schwab** speaks at the Holocaust Memorial Night at Millersville University, April 19, 2017.



Roundtable “Our Immigration Experience” with (left to right) Dr. Onek Adyanga, Dr. Ojoma Edeh Herr, Dr. Christine Filippone, Dr. Victoria Khiterer and Dr. Ximena Catepillan.

Student News

Made in Millersville

In Made in Millersville, the following students participated with historical projects:

- Abigail Gruber
- Alexander Goodrich
- Rachel Mann
- Joseph Murse
- Lindsay Roschel
- Kyle Thomas
- Hannah Campbell
- Heidi Kindon
- Joshua Hackel
- Caroline Hamersky
- Hunter Mengel
- Shane Marino
- Taylor Payne
- Lauren Cameron
- Jessica DePalma
- Devin Strohm

Student News

Accepted to Graduate Programs

- **Abigail Gruber**, Doctoral Student at Temple University
- **Alexander Goodrich**, the Public History doctoral program at North Carolina State University
- **Steven Burciaga**, Doctoral Student at SUNY Buffalo

Student News

Internships



Hunter Mengel (Class of 2018) - Internship at the Toy Collection Association, Strasburg, PA.



Left to Right **Turner Orndorff**, Class of 2017, **Kyle Thomas**, Class of 2017, and **Katie Fitchner**, Associate Archivist and Class of 2007) - Turner and Kyle are interning at LancasterHistory.org

Student News

Award Winners

- **Heidi Kindon**, Dr. Richard C. Keller Award in American History
- **Ryan Bankert**, Louis and Margarete Koppel Endowment
- **Hunter Megel**, The Charlotte A. Lafferty History Scholarship and C Maxwell and Edna H. Myers History Award Endowment
- **Taylor Payne**, Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship
- **Hannah Campbell**, The Joan M. Williams Scholarship Endowment
- **Abigail Gruber**, Francis J. Bremer Award
- **Joseph Murse**, Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship for Excellence in History Award
- **Matthew Latschar**, Dr. Robert D. & Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship
- **Lauren Cameron**, John W. Loose History Research Award

Student News

Research Trip to Bermuda

Dr. **Maxwell** and graduate students **Abigail Gruber**, **Jon Bannan**, **Alexander Goodrich** and **Lauren Cameron** were invited by the Bermuda National Trust President William Zuill, to present their research before a group attending the Elliott Exhibit held at the Chubb Gallery on 18 July 2017 during their research trip to Bermuda.



Dr. Maxwell with his students and hosts during Bermuda research trip.

Student News



The following Millersville University students presented papers at the 2017 Phi Alpha Theta East Regional Annual Conference, held on 1 April 2017 at Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ:

Faculty Supervisor: Professor **Robyn Lily Davis**

1. **Lauren Cameron**: "Lincoln's Deterrence of European Support for the Confederates: The Emancipation Proclamation Revisited"
2. **Jon Bannan**: "Please Send Mother my Apologies': The Civil War Experiences of Edwin Seckel"
3. **Taylor Payne**: "Harry Hamilton Laughlin: Honorary Doctor of Death"
4. **Alexander Goodrich**: "Bermudian Privateering and the 'Lucky' Captain Frith"
5. **Shane Marino**: "The Other Class: Hawaiian Annexation and the American Imperialist Mission"
6. **Hunter Dale Mengel**: "Toys and Play: Children of the 20th Century"
7. **Kyle Thomas**: "The American Military in the Early American Republic"
8. **Abigail S. Gruber**: "Merchants in Bermuda and Philadelphia during the American War for Independence"
9. **Elizabeth Root**: "Is Yellow Fever an Imported Disease? The Medical Debate behind Immigration Quarantine in 18th Century Philadelphia"
10. **Joseph Murse**, "Xun Yu and the Fate of the Han Dynasty"



Millersville University students at the 2017 Phi Alpha Theta East Regional Annual Conference.



Professors **Tracey Weis** and **Robyn Davis** with MU students at the Library of Congress, April 2017.

Alumni News

Genius is one percent inspiration,
ninety-nine percent perspiration.

Thomas Edison

Dear Alumni,

The History Department sincerely congratulates you on your successes. We are proud of you and your professional achievements.

Alumni Social

On Sunday, April 2, 2017 alumni, current students, and faculty met in the McComsey Hall lobby, added during renovations in 2003, for the second annual Alumni Social. They exchanged news about current and past jobs, life at MU in decades past (including stories about students hunting pheasants and rabbits after class where the SMC and Crossgates development now stand), and trends in history teaching. The event concluded with a tour of the history department's offices and classrooms in the wing added in 2003.

The department looks forward to hosting the 3rd annual Alum Social in Spring 2018!

Alumni share their stories

Abigail S. Gruber, B.S. Ed. Social Studies, Millersville University 2015; M.A. History, Millersville University 2017

Current position: Doctoral Student at Temple University. I was able to successfully apply for admission to Temple, which happened to also be my top-choice school, while completing the first semester of my second year in the M.A. Program at Millersville. I was notified of my full ride and assistantship at Temple four months before my graduation in May 2017.

Advice to Students: My advice to current students is to step outside of your comfort zone as often as possible and take advantage of opportunities (grants, conferences, internships) that come along. Surely, the space just outside of your comfort zone is where the growth begins. This is not to say that things will certainly fall into your lap, but rather that you should passionately strive after the career and life that you want for yourself.

Megan Bruno, BSE Social Studies at Millersville, Spring 2012

Current position: I am the Commercial Service Representative for First Citizens Community Bank. I handle the credit files and covenants for all customers whose loan relationship with the bank is over \$500,000 in commercial/ small business/ FSA loans or who have lines of credit over \$200,000. Furthermore, I handle the updates and communication with realtors about the properties the bank has foreclosed on and now owns. I also handle all the property subordinations dealing with gas, wind, oil and mineral leases between the bank customers and the companies leasing their land.

Advice to Students: Please don't ever bring yourself down if you don't get a job in what you think is a related field or in your field. Millersville does an amazing job of preparing you for whatever the career world throws at you and you never know if you like a job until you try it. I apply so much knowledge every day from my studies and I am in Finance and Banking and not in any of the histories. History is such a diverse and well-rounded subject to study and there is so much you can pull from it. Absorb it all like a sponge. Also take as many diverse classes as you can within your degree requirements, you never know what you might learn, enjoy and find a passion in.

Dr. Kristin O'Brassill-Kulfan, BA History & English, Millersville, 2011; MA Modern & Public History, Queen's University Belfast, 2012; PhD History, University of Leicester, 2016

Current position: Instructor & Coordinator of Public History, Department of History, Rutgers University - New Brunswick -- I teach classes in public and early American history, coordinate an undergraduate certificate program in public history, and direct and supervise the public history internship program. I also write and research in public and American history, and am currently writing a book on indigent transiency in the early 19th century US, under contract with New York University Press.

I went directly from finishing the BA at Millersville to graduate school, and had secured a job at the PA House of Representatives Archives before completing my MA. After completing my MA, I worked as an archivist and researcher there for four years, while completing my PhD. In July 2016, I began teaching in the History Department at Rutgers.

Advice to Students: Get as much experience as you possibly can while in college, through internships and volunteering, and never feel too young or unqualified to contact someone in the field that you're interested in -- enthusiasm and networking go a long way toward building the career you want.

Alexander J. Goodrich, BA History, Millersville University 2014; MA History, Millersville University 2017

Current position: I was a graduate assistant in the Dean's Office of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. I collected feedback on cultural events at Millersville for a year-end report on student satisfaction. I also sat on the Arts Council and Creative Campus Cohort. Occasionally, I would write for the newsletter *Telling Our Story*. Going into the Public History doctoral program at North Carolina State University, I will be starting as a teaching assistant.

Advice to Students: Always go the extra mile. Find something you are passionate about and do as much work as you can outside of the classroom to make yourself stand out from the crowd. Take any internship or research opportunities available, and apply for as many grants as possible. Employers and professionals look for those who show how much they truly care about their field.

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